



Agenda Date: 4/3/02

Agenda Item: 3Q

## **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

### **Board of Public Utilities**

*Two Gateway Center*

*Newark, NJ 07102*

IN THE MATTER OF COMCAST	)	<u>CABLE TELEVISION</u>
CABLEVISION OF SOUTHEAST	)	
PENNSYLVANIA, INC. (LAMBERTVILLE) FOR	)	
APPROVAL OF THE FILING OF FCC FORM	)	
1240, AN ANNUAL UPDATING OF THE	)	
MAXIMUM PERMITTED RATE FOR THE	)	ORDER ADOPTING STIPULATION
REGULATED BASIC SERVICE USING THE	)	
OPTIONAL EXPEDITED RATE	)	
PROCEDURES	)	DOCKET NO. CR01110731

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

BY THE BOARD:

On November 2, 2001, Comcast Cablevision of Southeast Pennsylvania, Inc. (Lambertville) ("Petitioner") filed Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") Form 1240, Docket Number CR01110731, seeking approval by the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") for an annual rate adjustment in its maximum permitted rate resulting from an adjustment for inflation, channel changes, programming costs and copyright fees pursuant to the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, 47 U.S.C. § 543 *et seq.*, and provisions of the New Jersey Cable Television Act, N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 *et seq.*

The Board, at its public meeting on January 10, 1996, in Docket Number CX95120636, approved the implementation of Optional Expedited Rate Procedures for the processing of certain filings made with the Office of Cable Television ("OCTV"). The intended purpose of these procedures is to grant final rates as quickly as possible to any cable company that chooses this process. In the spirit of cooperation based on the principles of Alternate Dispute Resolution ("ADR"), the discovery content is limited, thereby reducing the timeframe for settlement.

Petitioner chose to pursue its filing with the Board through the approved procedures. To that end, a pre-transmittal conference was held on December 6, 2001 and attended by representatives of the Petitioner, the Division of the Ratepayer Advocate and Board Staff. Petitioner agreed to waive its Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") litigation rights for this matter. It should be noted that Petitioner's waiver was a knowing, voluntary and intelligent waiver of its litigation rights at the OAL and that the waiver did not constitute a circumvention of the FCC rules nor did it affect Petitioner's right to appeal in that forum.

Petitioner notified its customers of the rate changes by way of a newspaper announcement

informing them of their opportunity to submit written comments to the Board for a period of thirty days. The notice appeared in The Hunterdon County Democrat on January 3, 2002. No comments were received as a result of the public notice.

After review by Staff and the Ratepayer Advocate of the supporting documentation, schedules and other discovery requests, a settlement conference was held on December 10, 2001. On February 14, 2002, the parties entered into a Stipulation of Settlement.

The Board has reviewed the Stipulation of Settlement and FINDS it to be reasonable, in the public interest and in accordance with the law. Therefore, the Board HEREBY ADOPTS the Stipulation of Settlement (attached hereto) as its own, incorporating by reference the terms and conditions therein as if fully set forth at length herein.

The Board FURTHER ORDERS that should this cable system, or any part thereof, merge, and/or migrate to another system, be upgraded and/or rebuilt, its ownership or control be otherwise sold or transferred to another entity, the basic service tier rate that will be eliminated or superseded as a result of the merger, migration, upgrade, rebuild, sale or transfer must be "trued-up" [47 C.F.R. § 76.922 (e) (3)]. The final true-up for the affected system, or any part thereof, should be calculated on FCC Form 1240 and begin where the last true-up period ended on its prior FCC Form 1240. This true-up calculation shall be filed with the Board when all the affected subscribers are being charged the rate resulting from the merger, migration, upgrade, rebuild, sale or transfer and may be filed in conjunction with the annual rate adjustment cycle (Form 1240) established as a result of said merger, migration, upgrade, rebuild, sale or transfer.

The cable system, or any part thereof, may be subsequently deregulated as a result of a finding by the Board, the FCC or other party of competent jurisdiction, that this system, or any portion thereof, is subject to effective competition. Should that be the case, the last basic service rate established as a result of a prior FCC Form 1240 or such subsequent rate calculation method as may be heretofore adopted by the Board, the FCC or other party of competent jurisdiction, prior to the deregulation of any rate that is now or may in the future be subject to the Board's

jurisdiction, must be trued-up for the period of time that the affected rates were subject to regulation by the Board.

DATED: April 4, 2002

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
BY:

(signed)

JEANNE M. FOX  
PRESIDENT

(signed)

FREDERICK F. BUTLER  
COMMISSIONER

(signed)

CAROL J. MURPHY  
COMMISSIONER

(signed)

CONNIE O. HUGHES  
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

(signed)

KRISTI IZZO  
BOARD SECRETARY

IN THE MATTER OF  
COMCAST CABLEVISION OF SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA, INC.  
(LAMBERTVILLE)  
FCC FORM 1240 USING THE  
OPTIONAL EXPEDITED RATE PROCEDURES

DOCKET NUMBER: CR01110731

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